

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/023,796

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following cancellations, amendments and/or additions.

Claims 1-10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (New) A method for producing *in vivo* antioxidation in a living subject which comprises at least the following steps:

(A) producing fermented milk by a process consisting essentially of the steps of:

- (1) preparing a mixed solution of milk and sugar with *Lactobacillus plantarum* ATCC 14431 cells having Mn-catalase activity,
- (2) fermenting the milk/sugar/bacteria cell solution with a powdered tea obtained from a manganese-containing tea,

wherein the powdered tea is provided in an amount such that about 5×10^8 to 5×10^{10} bacteria cells are present for 2 to 4 g of the powdered tea based on 1 liter of milk,

wherein the fermenting is at 35-37°C for 12-72 hours to provide a fermented milk product; and optionally,

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- (3) adding a sweetener, a fruit flesh,
an inorganic electrolyte, a
vitamin and/or a flavor to the
fermented milk product;
- (B) feeding the fermented milk of step (A) to the
living subject,
- (C) producing superoxide dismutase activity and
catalase activity in the living subject, and
- (D) eliminating superoxide and hydrogen peroxide in
said living subject so as to effect *in vivo*
antioxidation in said living subject.

Claim 12. (New) A method for producing *in vivo*
antioxidation in a living subject which comprises at least the
following steps:

- (A) producing fermented milk by a process comprising
the steps of:
 - (1) preparing a mixed solution of milk and
sugar with *Lactobacillus plantarum*
ATCC 14431 cells having Mn-catalase
activity,
 - (2) fermenting the milk/sugar/bacteria cell
solution with a powdered tea obtained
from a manganese-containing tea,
wherein the powdered tea is
provided in an amount such that about
 5×10^8 to 5×10^{10} bacteria cells are
present for 2 to 4 g of the powdered
tea based on 1 liter of milk,

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wherein the fermenting is at
35-37°C for 12-72 hours to provide a
fermented milk product;

- (B) feeding the fermented milk of step (A) to the living subject,
- (C) expressing superoxide dismutase activity and catalase activity in the living subject, and
- (D) eliminating superoxide and hydrogen peroxide in said living subject so as to effect *in vivo* antioxidation in said living subject.

Claim 13. (New) A method for producing *in vivo* antioxidation in a living subject which comprises at least the following steps:

- (A) producing a beverage by a process consisting essentially of the steps of:
 - (1) preparing a mixed solution of milk and sugar with *Lactobacillus plantarum* ATCC 14431 cells having Mn-catalase activity,
 - (2) fermenting the milk/sugar/bacteria cell solution with a powdered tea obtained from a manganese-containing tea,

wherein the powdered tea is provided in an amount such that about 5×10^8 to 5×10^{10} bacteria cells are present for 2 to 4 g of the powdered tea based on 1 liter of milk,

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wherein the fermenting is at 37°C
for 18 hours to provide a fermented
milk product solution;

- (3) diluting the fermented solution with
water and/or orange juice, and adding a
stabilizer; and fermenting the
milk/sugar/bacteria cell,
- (4) adding a flavor to the diluted
fermented solution to give a liquid
yogurt lactic acid bacteria beverage;
- (B) feeding the beverage of step (A) to the living
subject,
- (C) expressing superoxide dismutase activity and
catalase activity in the living subject, and
- (D) eliminating superoxide and hydrogen peroxide in
said living subject so as to effect *in vivo*
antioxidation in said living subject.